

**James Craine Bronaugh to Andrew Jackson, February 23, 1822, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson.
Edited by John Spencer Bassett.**

DR. JAMES C. BRONAUGH TO JACKSON.

Washington, February 23, 1822.

My D'r Sir, The weather has been so bad since I wrote you last, that I have been prevented from visiting Baltimore as I then intended and I was so disgusted with the conduct of the President that I had determined not to call upon him again: last night however I met with Mr. Hay (his son-in-law)¹ at a Ball who entered into a long discussion of every thing connected with the Florida transactions and he came out so warmly in your defence, that I candidly stated to him my difficulty in relation to the conduct of the President and my opinion that it could not fail to produce in your mind unpleasant feelings towards the President. He expressed his regret at the circumstance and said that he had for some time been fearful of that result—that he was satisfied of the Presidents high regard and friendly feeling for you and appeared I thought to attribute his course to timidity. He declared that he very seldom conversed with the President on subjects connected with the Govt. that in consequence of the free manner in which he was in the habit of expressing his opinions of men and measures when those subjects had been introduced that the President very rarely broached them in his presence but that he had taken the liberty on several occasions to give him the opinion which he entertained both of you and Fromentin and that in strong language. And declared that altho' he could not boast your acquaintance, that there was no man in existence for whom he entertained so exalted an opinion.

¹ George Hay of Richmond.

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This morning the President sent for me—he appears uneasy—made a long speech on the subject of the important services which you have rendered your country and the obligations which he considers himself under to you—hoped that you never could for a moment have doubted his friendship for you—declared that it had never known any diminution, that he considered your glory as intimately connected with that of the country and that his object had always been to place you on the highest possible ground. That in the approval of the motives etc. of Fromentin it was only in relation to his issuing the writ of *H. Corpus* and that it would give him extreme pain if he supposed it could possibly be construed into any kind of sanction of the improper language used by him in relation to you, that he thought it best not to appear to crush him, as by a contrary course he would be enabled to come out more strongly in your favor and have it in his power to cover the whole ground—desired that I would explain this to you—that he was so conscious his motives and conduct towards you had always been pure and friendly that he could not for a moment suffer himself to think that they could be doubted by you, and that for him to enter into a vindication of them to you would appear awkward and unpleasant. He then informed me that on Friday he should give the Spanish minister a Dinner and invited me to attend

I dont think Congress will do any thing on the subject—the number opposed to you is very small and but little talents among them—you need give yourself no uneasiness, if a discussion should take place, you will be ably defended. I hope for the present you will remain perfectly silent. I think it will be best for you not come to express your opinion to the President on the subject—his friends will be compelled to defend you. Now is not the time to act. Perhaps after the adjournment of Congress, it may be necessary to come out. more of this when we meet yr. friend